

Serial No. 10/824,096

Reply to Office Action of November 18, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to this Amendment, claims 1-17 were pending in the application.

Claim 11 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 12, which is cancelled. Claim 13 is amended to correct dependency. Claims 16 and 17 are cancelled. Independent claim 18 is added to present dependent claim 15, which was found to contain allowable subject matter, in independent form. No new matter is added with support found for the claim amendments in the original claims.

After entry of the Amendment, claims 1-11, 13-15, and 18 remain for consideration by the Examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the November 18, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1-10.

Further, dependent claims 12-15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, claim 12 is rewritten in independent form by adding its limitations to that of claim 11 (i.e., the amendment is not made to address a prior art rejection of claim 12), with claim 12 being cancelled. Claim 15 is rewritten in independent form by presenting new independent claim 18, which includes the limitations of base claim 11 and all the limitations of claim 15. As a result, claims 11, 13-15, and 18 are believed in condition for allowance (as well as previously allowed claims 1-10).

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action also rejected claims 11, 16, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,671,113 ("Klassen"). Claim 11 is amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 12, which was found to contain subject matter that is allowable over Klassen. Claims 16 and 17 are cancelled.

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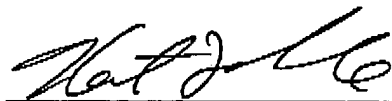
Conclusions

Based on the above remarks, it is requested that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

No fee is believed due for this submittal. However, any fee deficiency associated with this submittal may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

1/20/06



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